SHRI ARJUN SINGH: The Hon'ble Foreign Minister will ascertain the facts and he will come to the House because it is not, as I said, a question of expediency or convenience. Indo-Soviet relations and friendship are based on solid foundations. They are not only of mutual interest but have also been instrumental for preserving the peace and tranquility all over the world and to stand up against anyone whenever peace is threatened, democracy is threatened, well-being of the weaker nations is threatened. When the poor people around the country or in the world face an adverse, a situation, somebody has to speak up for them. At least, the last 40 years have proved that it is the bedrock of Indo-Soviet friendship which has emboldened millions of people around the globe to stand up against imperialism and fight for their rights irrespective of the risk involved. I would, therefore, associate this Government and our Party with the triumph of democracy in the Soviet Union.

We wish President Gorbachev all well who has boldly charted the course of his own country for the fulfilment of whatever aspirations the Soviet people have. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Well, the Members have expressed their views. All the Members of the House would like to have the facts in an authentic manner which may please be given by the Foreign Minister. He was asked to ascertain the facts and give them to the House. The same is being done now also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: No, Sir. I am sorry. This is the unanimous view of this House that at least we should send greetings to the people of Soviet Union and to the Government there. Please send our greetings on behalf of the Parliament...*(Interruptions)* Please send our greetings on behalf of this Parliament in the larger interest of Indo-Soviet friendship and peace. Everybody has agreed on this issue. Let us at least convey the feelings of this House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Shri Thangkabalu, please take your seat. Please don't come to the conclusion that the Members of the House have different views. But at the same time, you know, that we got the information two days back. You also know, the facts today are different.

Allow me to discuss the same thing with you in the Chamber and then take a correct decision. Please do not come to the conclusion as I do not decide like this.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: But the facts must come from the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: That is exactly correct. He was asked not to comment but to give the facts. I am doing the same thing now also.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter. The Railway Protection Force had an Association for 13 long years from 1973 to 1985 and the permission to the Association was withdrawn in 1985. Now, the Railway Protection Force has been agitating for a very long time to form an Association. Yesterday, Shri Harish Rawat, former Member of Parliament, had staged a *dharna* before the House of the Railway Minister. Those who took part in the *dharna* were taken away to the Police Station and were detained. This is a matter which has the consent of the House also. The Committee on Subordinate Legislation in its report has already given a view that that order and that Act, by which this Association has been withdrawn, should be rescinded. I would like to urge upon the Railway Minister to take up the issue once again and restore the right of forming the Association of the Railway Protection Force. The Leader of the House should react.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be Laid.

(Interruptions)

12.32 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications under the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND